GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:292
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2001
EXPORT OF GEMS AND JEWELLERY
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

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(a) whether gems and jewellery exports have registered declining growth during the current year; (

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and (

(c) the remedial action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 292 FOR ANS ON 10th AUGUST 2001 REGARDING EXPORT OF GEMS AND JEWELLERY

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. As per the provisional data of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai (GJEPC), the export of gems and jewellery at Rs. 9317.15 crores or US $ 1995.34 million during the period April 2001 to July 2001 has shown a decline of 7.62% in rupee terms and 13.26% in US dollar terms over the corresponding period of the last year. However, export of gold jewellery at Rs. 1229.60 crores or US $ 263.52 million has registered a growth of 5.18% in rupee terms and a slight decline of 1.54% in US dollar terms during the above period. The reasons for decline in exports include economic slow down in the markets of the developed countries such as USA and Japan etc. and fall in gold price in the international market resulting in corresponding decrease in export value in the gold jewellery. In order to improve exports of gems and jewellery, the Government and the GJEPC have undertaken or have proposed to undertake several actions in the short/medium term, some of which are given below : -

- Have got prepared a medium-term export strategy;

- Exploring the possibilities of direct procurement of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries;

- Have provided funds under Critical Infrastructure Balancing Scheme to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture under the auspices of Indian Diamond Institute at Surat to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacturing;

- Promote the image of India`s gems and jewellery abroad through frequent advertisements/publicity campaigns in international trade journals; participation in international fairs, buyers sellers meet, direct approach to mass retailers etc.;

- Explore and identify new markets by undertaking market studies through expert consultants and by deputing Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions for on-the-spot study for latest trends in designs;

- Newer markets in the Latin American Countries are also being closely analysed for evolving a strategy for promotion of gems and jewellery exports from India;

- Suitably promote exports of Hall Marked jewellery from India through publicity campaigns so as to promote made in India as a hallmark of quality;

- Based on the feedback and requests received from the exporters and GJEPC, necessary amendments were carried out in the Exim Policy effective from 1/4/2001 with a view to facilitate exports.